



CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM

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May 13, 1999

Hon. Ellen O. Tauscher
House of Representatives
1239 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Tauscher:

Your letter of April 21, 1999 requests CALFED's assessment of the Sacramento area water supply development provisions recently proposed for addition to the WRDA bill (HR 1480). As you are aware both Governor Gray Davis and the U. S. Department of the Interior (the principals of CALFED) have formally expressed their concern and opposition regarding these water supply provisions.

CALFED has not attempted to perform a specific technical assessment due to the limited time and detail. However there are some general observations that may be useful in your deliberations.

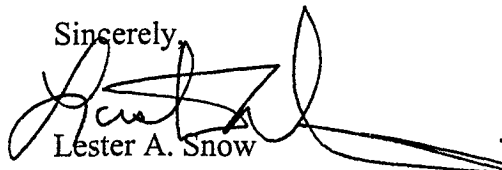
One of CALFED's basic principles is that Program implementation will not result in significant redirection of impacts, that is, a solution of one problem doesn't merely make more problems for other stakeholders in other locations. Another basic component of the CALFED approach is that actions need to be integrated into a larger framework to achieve multiple objectives. For example: a change in diversion location or capacity combined with ecosystem restoration and water quality improvement may produce net benefits for all sectors.

The recently released water supply provisions have resulted in questions related to both of these issues. Key stakeholders have raised concerns that while some may benefit, others may be harmed by these actions. This potential conflict reduces cooperation and potentially undermines CALFED efforts to develop and implement a framework to improve water supply reliability and ecosystem health.

These proposals are best aired and discussed in a broader context of CALFED or perhaps more appropriately, the Sacramento Water Forum before authorization is sought.

Please call if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,



Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

CALFED Agencies

California The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service